

NEWARK, NJ 07102-0001 (43)
May, 1985

TO: The Governor of New Jersey, New Jersey State Senate, New Jersey State Assembly, Essex County Executive,	Mayor of the City of Newark, Newark Municipal Council, Newark Police Department, Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and State, County and Municipal Judiciary:
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WE, PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND/OR WORK in the city of Newark, who have signed the accompanying petition, will no longer tolerate the widespread disregard for law and order in our city.

WE REPRESENT NO INDIVIDUAL, OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP; we are concerned for all of our fellow Newarkers who must now live in constant daily fear of suddenly being confronted with some vicious, inhuman attack. Those who are the subjects of our concern encompass the full range of humanity from the youngest child to the oldest senior citizen of all economic stations and ethnic heritage.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO, either through direct payment of property taxes, or through rents that are in part subsequently paid as taxes, or through taxes on virtually every purchase we make, or through taxes on our income, provide the funds that pay your salaries and other benefits.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE who also provide the funds that should be, but simply are not being used wisely and carefully to provide us with thorough, consistent, and effective protection.

WE PROTEST MOST STRENUOUSLY the unchecked, blatant demonstration of total disrespect for our persons and our property by the criminal element, who would take from us our city, our freedoms, and our very existence.

LAW-ABIDING, PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE throughout every section of our city are becoming so intimidated by constant fear and frustration that in many cases they have even given up reporting criminal acts altogether, which results in severely understated crime statistics, leading in turn to not enough resources being applied to combat the problem.

INSTEAD, VICTIMS MORE AND MORE frequently choose to flee our city in favor of suburban homes where they feel better able to survive.

THIS MASS EXODUS is steadily increasing the odds in favor of the criminal element who would destroy our society and forever prevent our hopes and dreams from being realized.

WE DEMAND STRONG, effective changes in the law and its application that will once and for all begin to really combat thefts, muggings, drug dealing, rapes, murders, and other forms of violent criminal behavior.

WE DEMAND A CESSATION to revolving-door justice that prematurely releases into our midst those who have actually been proven guilty of violence against us and our neighbors, long before those criminals have paid a penalty that even approaches in severity the magnitude of their offenses.

WE DEMAND, where a genuine lack of space may exist, or incarceration may be genuinely inappropriate, that a community service sentence be imposed of sufficient length to appropriately compensate the offended for the transgressions of the offender. Throughout our city are numerous organizations that could certainly utilize such service for the benefit of persons who have needs they cannot for one reason or another provide for themselves.

WE DEMAND, SIMPLY BECAUSE WE MUST HAVE, more police, stronger law enforcement, and a drastic change in the present philosophy that excuses vicious, violence-prone minors simply because they happen to be below some arbitrarily drawn age limit. The age of the perpetrator has no bearing on the victim being just as deprived of property, just as injured, or just as dead.

FINALLY, WE DEMAND, FIRMLY AND UNCOMPROMISEDLY, that you upon whom we are supposed to rely to do your duty conscientiously, now and forever cease your present attitude of either ignoring or attempting to minimize the severity of the situation, and begin at once to apply the full weight of your official authority in order to bring about a rapid and total return to us of some control over our lives, our liberties, and the peaceful pursuit of our happiness.